EXCISE

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ACTION EA-12
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USICA FOR EA
E.O. 12065: GDS 07/23/86 (BLAKEMORE, DAVID) OL-P
TAGS: SOPN PINS SHUN MILI KS
SUBJECT: ROK ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF MEETS FOREIGN PRESS
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LEE EUI-SUNG (M-R: YI EUI-SONG) HOSTED A COCKTAIL BUFFET DINNER JULY 22 FOR ABOUT 32 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN PRESS AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

GENERAL LEE SAID THAT KIM DAE JUNG'S (M-R: KIM DAE-CHUNG) TRIAL WILL BE IN AUGUST AND WILL BE OPEN TO OBSERVERS. KIM HAS NOT BEEN ABUSED AND STATEMENTS THAT HE HAS CANNOT POSSIBLY BE TRUE SINCE NO ONE BUT HIS KEEPERS HAS SEEN HIM. LEE HIMSELF HAS NOT SEEN HIM RECENTLY, BUT THE ROKG IS NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO ABUSE THE EX-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, KNOWING THAT HE WILL SOON GO ON PUBLIC TRIAL. KIM WILL WALK INTO THE COURTROOM OF HIS OWN. ALTHOUGH KIM'S FAMILY HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE

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HIM YET, THEY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO FIND LAWYERS FOR HIM.
3. ON DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT, LEE SAID KOREA'S ALLIES, "LIKE YOU CORRESPONDENTS," SURELY DO NOT WANT TO SEE KOREA DESTROYED. "THERE WILL BE NO MORE STUDENT REVOLUTIONS LIKE THAT OF 1960, NOT MILITARY REVOLUTIONS LIKE THAT OF 1961. SOME RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE TOO NARROW A VIEWPOINT, AND SOME POLITICIANS TRY TO EXPLOIT STUDENTS FOR POLITICAL ENDS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE WILL BE A FUNCTIONING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND POLITICAL PARTIES, PLUS A FREELY CHOSEN LEADER, GENERAL LEE SAID, "IT MUST WAIT AND SEE."
4. GENERAL LEE WAS ASKED IF THE MILITARY IS UNITED. "GOOD QUESTION," REPLIED HE. "WE HAVE SEEN JUNIORS KICKING OUT THEIR SENIORS IN EVERY SECTOR OF SOCIETY EXCEPT THE MILITARY, WHICH IS FIRMLY UNITED UNDER YI

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY N. Teeple DATE 8/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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COMMAND" (SIC). ON A FOLLOW-UP AS TO WHETHER ANY ARMY COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN KILLED GENERAL LEE SAID, "WHO DO YOU (THE CORRESPONDENTS) SERVE? DO YOU TAKE AN OATH, LIKE PHYSICIANS?"

5. ONE JOURNALIST SUMMED UP THE THREE-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE BY SAYING THAT IT WAS INTERESTING, BUT SECRT ON THE EARTH-SHAKING ANNOUNCEMENTS SOME HAD ANTICIPATED.

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